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Message Text

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67
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 IO-14 MC-02 ACDA-19 /169 R

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R 162008Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR XG
SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING - SOUTHERN EUROPE

FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON'S NEWS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 16 DEALING WITH SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS:

QUOTE
Q: HOW IS THE STUDY GOING ON AID TO TURKEY?

A: I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN I DID, I BELIEVE IT WAS LAST WEDNESDAY, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT AT THE LEADER-SHIP MEETING LAST THURSDAY AT THE WHITE HOUSE, THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY WAS DISCUSSED, AND, POINT TWO, THE PRESIDENT WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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Q: COULD ONE PRESUME THAT, IF THE PRESIDENT HAS DIS-

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CUSSED THIS WITH THE LEADERSHIP, THE STATE DEPARTMENT STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND, BASED ON THAT STUDY, THE PRESIDENT HAS APPRISED THE LEADERSHIP?

A: IN COMMENTING ON THIS SAME QUESTION TEN DAYS AGO, I INDICATED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT, WHICH HE HAS DONE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, AND FOLLOWING THAT, THE PRESIDENT

WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. AND I ALSO SAID AT THE TIME THAT ONE COULD ASSUME THAT, WHEN THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH THE PRESIDENT, HE OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE ABLE TO PRE-SENT A POSITION OR A SERIES OF POSITIONS TO THE PRESIDENT, FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CONSIDERATION.

Q: WHAT COMMENT DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ON THE STORY THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE WASHINGTON POST THIS MORNING ON FORMER AMBASSADOR TASCA'S ROLE AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ROLE IN THE CYPRUS SITUATION?

A: I HAVE A VERY BRIEF COMMENT ON THAT -- AND THAT IS THAT WE DO NOT FEEL THAT ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY COMMENTING ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A STORY OF THIS KIND. NOW, I COULD MAKE ONE OR TWO OBSERVATIONS FOR YOU ON THIS, VERY GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. AND THAT IS THAT FOREIGN POLICY IS FORMULATED IN WASHINGTON, AND CARRIED OUT BY OUR AMBASSADORS AND THEIR STAFFS ABROAD. AND THIS IS THE WAY OUR GREEK POLICY HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT IN PAST YEARS. AND WITH REGARD TO AMBASSADOR TASCA'S TRANSFER, THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN A CHANGE OF AMBASSADORS, AND I BELIEVE I HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE ON THE RECORD, AT A TIME WHEN A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT HAS OCCURRED AND THE CURRENT AMBASSADOR HAS SERVED IN THE POST FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS.

THOSE ARE THE ONLY TWO GENERAL COMMENTS I CAN GIVE YOU.

Q: DID AMBASSADOR TASCA APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE PENTAGON, BYPASSING STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS, ASKING UNCLASSIFIED

THAT THE SIXTH FLEET BE SENT TO THE AREA TO PREVENT TURKEY FROM INVADING CYPRUS?

A: I AM UNAWARE OF THIS AND JUST HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q: YOU RECALL A WEEK AGO SATURDAY THERE WAS A MEETING OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AID TO TURKEY. WAS THAT MEETING CONCLUSIVE? DID THEY

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COME TO ANY DECISIONS, CONCLUSIONS? DID THEY HAVE A
FINAL REPORT? OR IS THE WHOLE ISSUE STILL UNDER STUDY?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DELIBERATIONS OF IN-
TERNAL STATE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS THAT THE SECRETARY MAY
BE HAVING. I HAVE TRIED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS I COULD TO
TELL YOU WHERE THIS MATTER STANDS WITH REGARD TO THE
SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.
I CAN'T DO ANY MORE. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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Draft Date: 16 SEP 1974
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TAGS: PFOR, XG, TU, GR, (TASCA)
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